

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for the production of leather which comprises utilizing an assistant for leather production wherein the assistant comprises a graft copolymer comprising ~~The use of graft copolymers which comprise~~ at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer which is incorporated in the form of polymerized units and comprises at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle, ~~as an assistant for leather production.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~graft copolymers comprise~~ copolymer comprises at least two different monomers which are incorporated in the form of polymerized units and in each case comprise at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~ method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the ~~graft copolymers comprise~~ copolymer comprises at least one monomer B1 and one monomer B2 incorporated in the form of polymerized units.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~ method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein ~~at least one~~ the graft copolymer is composed of a polymeric grafting base A which has no monoethylenically unsaturated units, and polymeric side chains B formed from copolymers of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer selected from B1 and B2 or monomers B1 and B2 and, ~~if required~~ optionally, B3, which in each case contain at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle, and optionally further comonomers B3.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~ method according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4, wherein the amount of the side chains B on the graft copolymer is greater than 35% by weight.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~ method according to ~~any of claims 3 to 5~~ claim 4, wherein the polymeric grafting base A is a polyether.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of leather ~~using~~ utilizing at least one assistant for leather production, ~~comprising~~ wherein the at least one assistant for leather production comprises at least one graft copolymer which comprises at least two monoethylenically unsaturated monomers incorporated in the form of polymerized units, comprising at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle.

Claim 8 (Original): The process according to claim 7, wherein the graft copolymers comprises at least one monomer B1 and at least one monomer B2 incorporated in the form of polymerized units.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A leather produced according to ~~a process claim 7 or~~ & the process as claimed in claim 7.